

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): An image output apparatus for outputting an image using image data, the image data being associated with light metering mode information, the light metering mode information showing a light metering mode used for photographing of the image, the image output apparatus comprising:

a picture quality adjusting unit that adjusts lightness of the whole image to a degree;
and

an outputting unit that outputs the image adjusted by the picture quality adjusting unit,
wherein the picture quality adjusting unit makes the degree less when the light metering mode information shows a light metering mode measuring a part of the image than when the light metering mode information shows other than the light metering mode measuring a part of the image.

Claim 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The image output apparatus in accordance with claim 14,
wherein

the picture quality adjusting unit adjusts the lightness of the whole image to the degree without making the degree less when the light metering mode information shows other than the light metering mode measuring a part of the image.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The image output apparatus in accordance with claim 14,
wherein

the light metering mode information shows one of a plurality of metering modes including averaged metering, center-weighted metering, spot metering, multi-spot metering, divisional light metering, and partial light metering, and

the light metering mode measuring the part of the image includes spot metering, multi-spot metering, divisional light metering, and partial light metering.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The image output apparatus in accordance with claim 17, wherein

the picture quality adjusting unit includes a user interface for allowing a user to adjust the degree to adjust the lightness if the light metering mode information shows the center-weighted metering.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): An image output method of outputting an image using image data, the image data being associated with light metering mode information, the light metering mode information showing a light metering mode used for photographing of the image, the image output method comprising:

adjusting lightness of the whole image to a degree;
outputting the image that has been adjusted by the lightness adjustment; and
making the degree less when the light metering mode information shows a light metering mode measuring a part of the image than when the light metering mode information shows other than the light metering mode measuring a part of the image.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A computer-readable storage medium having a computer program stored thereon, the computer program causing a computer to output an image using image data, the image data being associated with light metering mode information, the light metering mode information showing a light metering mode used for photographing of the image, the computer program comprising instructions for causing the computer to perform functions of:

adjusting lightness of the whole image to a degree;
outputting the image that has been adjusted by the lightness adjustment; and
making the degree less when the light metering mode information shows a light metering mode measuring a part of the image than when the light metering mode information shows other than the light metering mode measuring a part of the image.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The image output apparatus in accordance with claim 14, wherein the picture quality adjusting unit includes:

a degree determining unit that determines the degree according to a difference between reflectivity of the whole image and a prescribed reference value; and

a degree reducing unit that reduces the determined degree to adjust the lightness when the light metering mode information shows a light metering mode measuring a part of the image.